

The Book Rack Newsletter

It just makes sense to buy your books at The Book Rack!

Vol 11, #12
December 2018
563-355-2310

*Store Hours: 10:00 - 6:00 Daily (except New Years Day, Easter, July 4,
Thanksgiving and Christmas)*

<http://www.thebookrackqc.com/>

BookRackQC@Gmail.com

Happy Holidays!

Trivia for December

What was the maiden name of Blondie Bumstead, the comic-strip wife of hapless Dagwood Bumstead?

Our December

\$25 Gift Certificate Winners!

We try to give away four \$25.00 Gift Certificates to The Book Rack account holders each month.

The names are selected from all our registered customers who have registered and/or had a trade or purchase since 1 January 2017.

All a winner has to do is read the newsletter and find your name listed below, then come in and claim your reward. No purchase is required and you don't have to register separately from your initial account registration.

The December 2018 winner #1 is:

Gloria Preston

See the other 3 winning names elsewhere in the newsletter, below. Find your name and just call or stop at the store on or before December 31 to claim your prize: a \$25 gift certificate from **The Book Rack!**

Books we need

Lisa Scottoline – After Anna
Louise Penny – ANY/ALL
Haruki Murakami – After the Quake
Lora Leigh - Aiden's Charity
Joanne DeMaio – Any/All
Fredrik Backman – Beartown
Lisa Wingate – Before We Were Yours
Melissa Wiley – Beyond the Heather Hills
Tite Kubo – Bleach Series Any/All
Captain Underpants – Any/All

If you have any of these and are willing to share them with others, please bring them in when you next visit **The Book Rack.**

Metal Signs Make Great Holiday Gifts!



Remember. You can use your store credit for \$3.00 off the regular price for each sign you buy!! They are regularly \$12.00. But with store credit you can get them for only \$9.00 each.

December Holidays and Events at The Book Rack:

- 1 Local Author Sean Leary will be at The Book Rack 12 – 2:00
- 2 Advent begins
- 3 Hanukkah lasts 8 days
- 7 Pearl Harbor Day
- 8 Local Author John Spencer will be at The Book Rack 11-1:00
- 12 Poinsettia Day
- 15 – Local Author Bill Mueller will be at The Book Rack 11-1:00
- 21 Winter Solstice (shortest day of the year)
- 23 Festivus - for the rest of us!
- 24 Christmas Eve – **The Book Rack** will close at 4:00
- 25 **Christmas** – **The Book Rack** will be Closed
- 26 Boxing Day
- 26 Kwanzaa
- 27 National Fruitcake Day
- 29 – Local Author Kurt Wagner will be at The Book Rack 11-1:00
- 31 New Years Eve – **The Book Rack** will close at 4:00
- January 1 – New Years Day – **The Book Rack** will be Closed

Featured Authors

Sean Leary will be at The Book Rack 12-2:00 on December 1



Sean Leary is an author, director, artist, musician, producer and entrepreneur who has been writing professionally since debuting at age 11 in the pages of the Comics Buyers Guide.

An honors graduate of the University of Southern California masters program, he has written almost 30 books including the best-sellers The Arimathean, Every Number is Lucky to Someone and We Are All Characters.

Local Author John Spencer will be at The Book Rack Saturday, December 8, 11-1:00

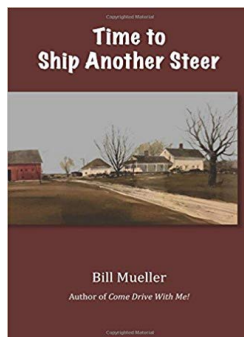


John R. Spencer grew up in Kansas and Colorado, and holds a degree in English Literature from the University of Northern Colorado, where he was, for two years, editor-in-chief of the campus literary magazine NOVA. In addition to writing, he has enjoyed a diverse career as a police detective, emergency medical technician, coroner's investigator, social worker, and community corrections supervisor. He has also worked as a dramatic director for several community and childrens theaters in Colorado, Wisconsin and Illinois.

Local Author Bill Mueller will be at The Book Rack December 15, 11-1:00

Bill's books are:

“Come Drive With Me!: The Adventures, Perils, and Insights of a Driver’s Ed Instructor” is a collection of humorous stories and a common-sense look at Mueller’s challenges as he navigates student drivers across the highways of eastern Iowa.



“Time to Ship Another Steer” Bill’s plan for this book was to write a collection of memories growing up on the farm as one of eleven children. Experiences are so vivid you feel that you’re there as part of his family. He saw the book as a way to preserve some family history for his grandkids and great-nieces and great-nephews, and regale them with stories of rural life in the 1950s and 1960s. This

is a look at how his family made ends meet and what life was like on a small produce farm. Even kids who were lucky enough to have grown up farming weren't blessed with ten brothers and sisters and two iconic parents.

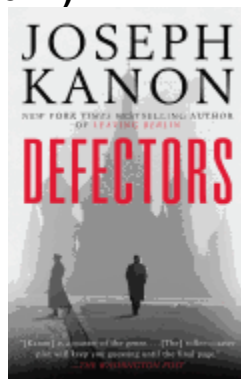
Local Author Kurt Wagner will be at The Book Rack 11-1:00 on December 29



Author of the Anthony the Mouse series. The books are published by Kurt Wagner and his family. Join Anthony and the Fletcher family as they participate in many of the fun, traditional festivities as Christmas approaches. The vibrant colors and all of the small details within the illustrations make reading this story extra fun!

Book Reviews

Defectors by Joseph Kanon (2017)



In 1949, Frank Weeks, fair-haired boy of the newly formed CIA, was exposed as a Communist spy and vanished behind the Iron Curtain. Now, twelve years later, he has written his memoirs, a KGB-approved project almost certain to be an international bestseller, and has asked his brother, Simon, a publisher, to come to Moscow to edit the manuscript. It's a reunion Simon both dreads and longs for. The book is sure to be filled with mischief and misinformation, Frank's motives suspect, the CIA hostile. But the chance to see Frank, his adored older brother, proves irresistible. And at first Frank is still Frank--the same charm, the

same jokes, the same bond of affection that transcends ideology. Then Simon begins to glimpse another Frank, still capable of treachery, still actively working for "the Service." Pulled into Frank's twilight world, he finds himself caught between the KGB and the CIA in a fatal scheme that pits the brothers against each other, like scorpions in a bottle, safe unless one of them attacks. But one always does.

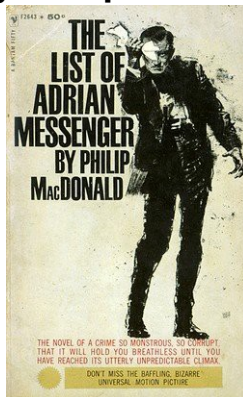
Defectors is the gripping story of one family torn apart by their divided loyalties and a revealing portrait of Moscow at the height of the Cold War and the community of American and British defectors forced to make it their home. Kept apart from ordinary Russians, closely monitored by the KGB, granted special privileges but never trusted, these former spies now live under a kind of permanent house arrest in the country they have sacrificed everything for, traitors who managed to escape one prison only to find themselves locked in another.

Listening to the audio book kept me deeply engaged, though not recklessly so! Kanon is a great writer. "A finely paced Cold War thriller with [Kanon's] usual flair for atmospheric detail, intriguing characters, and suspenseful action...Fans of intelligent suspense will enjoy trying to figure out whom is deceiving whom."-- Library Journal

I give it a B+. If you like le Carre', Martin Cruz Smith or Phillip Kerr and haven't read Kanon, this would be a good book to try.

The December 2018 winner #2 is: Steven Kline

The List of Adrian Messenger by Philip MacDonald (1959)

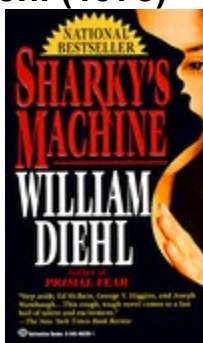


Prior to boarding a plane from England to America, Adrian Messenger hands a list of ten names to a close friend of his. He explains that seven of the ten men listed are dead – all of them from accidents that occurred over the last five years. He strongly believes that there is a single minded killer out there who has

been systematically killing off these men for a reason he has not yet determined. When the flight is several hours out over the Atlantic, a bomb explodes and forces the plane to crash land in the ocean. All aboard are killed except a Frenchman, Adrian, and one of the flight attendants. They were all blown out of one or another of the emergency doors. Fortunately, the Frenchman latched on to a wooden crate and was able to pull the attendant and Adrian on to it. Unfortunately, they were both so injured that they didn't make it. Just before he died, Adrian was able to speak a few cryptic words, which the Frenchman later related to Anthony Gethryn, a retired serviceman who was helping Scotland Yard in investigating the plane crash. Then Adrian's friend, who had the list, turned up and shared the list with Gethryn. Now the search was on for the mystery killer. MacDonald wrote several books in the Gethryn series which were very popular and sold well. For some reason, he has gone out of favor – primarily I suspect because his storytelling is couched in a relatively formal style that doesn't cut it with today's mystery fan. His books are well plotted and literate, however, and well worth reading.

I give it an A- and strong recommendation. It's a short, crisply written book and will definitely draw me to more of MacDonald's titles.

Sharky's Machine by William Diehl (1978)



Italy, 1944: A squad of American soldiers on a dangerous secret mission is ambushed and slaughtered . . . and a fortune in gold vanishes.

Hong Kong, 1959: An aging American colonel, haunted by his wartime past, is brutally murdered in a luxurious brothel.

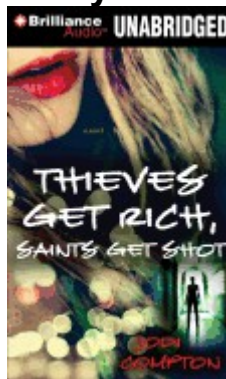
Atlanta, 1975: The last survivor of the fatal World War II ambush in Italy is executed at point blank range in a parking lot.

Blowing away a crazed, gun-wielding drug dealer on a crowded city bus gets police detective Sharky bounced from the narc squad into the dreaded dregs of the department-vice. That's where he stumbles on a high-priced call girl and her pimp who are fleecing rich johns in an even higher-priced blackmail scam. Together with his "machine" of hard-bitten vice squad veterans, Sharky closes in for a big sting. He doesn't count on falling for Domino, his alluring target. Or

falling into the middle of the murderous design she's a part of-involving a hot presidential candidate, the shadowy multimillionaire who's backing him, and the ice-cold assassin they're using to wipe out the past . . . before it blows their future to hell.

Becky from Goodreads says, "This book is FUN. Don't think about it too much...just go with it, hang out with the fun characters, and go for a wild ride. There is so much going on in this book from WWII plots to speed-popping assassins to...giant pinball machines. Yes. You have to read it to understand. " I agree it was a fun exciting book. I give it a B+.

Thieves Get Rich, Saints Get Shot by Jodi Compton (2011)



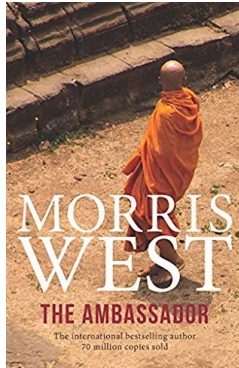
Hailey Cain is back in Los Angeles after a battle with a powerful organized-crime figure which nearly got her killed. Now, Hailey's carved out a life on the wrong side of the law, as the second-in-command to her old friend, the rising gangster Serena 'Warchild' Delgadillo.

But just as Hailey's slipped off the authorities' radar, disaster: A double homicide in San Francisco, with all evidence pointing to her as the shooter. Hailey knows she was in Los Angeles the night of the murders, but she can't prove it, nor can she prove her theory about who stole her identity and how. And since one of the murder victims was an SFPD officer, stepping forward and revealing herself to the police isn't just unwise, it could be fatal.

There's only one thing to do: with Serena at her back, Hailey goes on the road again, north to track down a killer and reclaim the one thing she still has of value: her good name.

My first Jodi Compton novel was a winner! Hailey Cain is a terrific character – strong, skilled, smart, relentless and fearless. Compton writes very well. I love her style. I give this book an A-. Not read Compton?? Better give her a shot.

The Ambassador by Morris West (1965)



The Ambassador is Maxwell Gordon Amberley, a troubled man, left rootless with the death of his wife, trying to find renewed meaning in his life. Suddenly, in the midst of his personal turmoil, he is assigned to South Vietnam and brought swiftly into the deceptive calm of the eye of the hurricane... Here in this extraordinary novel are sharply-drawn portraits of men and women – Asians, Americans, Europeans – at the center and on the fringes of policy-making in a dangerous war – a vast panorama brought into focus through the vision of one passionate and dedicated man...The Ambassador.

“A clear and bloody novel of the moral, political and human dilemmas that Americans and Vietnamese are faced with in Southeast Asia... a novel of drama and action with vivid characters and a theme of significance.” Des Moines Sunday Register

I was in high school and starting college when this book was published and reigned as a bestseller. I remember the general situation and headlines related to Vietnam. The book is intriguing and sort of a flash-back to those days. While it's fiction, West does a masterful job capturing the time and temperament. It's a great book. I give it an A.

The October 2018 winner #3 is:

Sue Woekener

Playing with Fire by Tess



Gerritsen (2015)

In a shadowy antiques shop in Rome, violinist Julia Ansdell happens upon a curious piece of music--the *Incendio* waltz--and is immediately entranced by its unusual composition. Full of passion, torment, and chilling beauty, and seemingly unknown to the world, the waltz, its mournful minor key, its feverish arpeggios, appear to dance with a strange life of their own. Julia is determined to master the complex work and make its melody heard.

Back home in Boston, from the moment Julia's bow moves across the strings, drawing the waltz's fiery notes into the air, something strange is stirred--and Julia's world comes under threat. The music has a terrifying and inexplicable effect on her young daughter, who seems violently transformed. Convinced that the hypnotic strains of *Incendio* are weaving a malevolent spell, Julia sets out to discover the man and the meaning behind the score.

Her quest beckons Julia to the ancient city of Venice, where she uncovers a dark, decades-old secret involving a dangerously powerful family that will stop at nothing to keep Julia from bringing the truth to light.

"Compelling . . . I defy you to read the first chapter and not singe your fingers reading the rest." --**David Baldacci**

"One of the best and most original thrillers of the year." --**Providence Journal**

"[A] novel brimming with emotion, literary description, and psychological suspense." --**The Huffington Post**

"Will make readers drop everything to immerse themselves in its propulsive dual narrative." --**Los Angeles Times**

A B+ in my book. Entertaining.

Trivia for December

What was the maiden name of Blondie Bumstead, the comic-strip wife of hapless Dagwood Bumstead?

Answer:

Boopadoop. In the early days of the Chic Young cartoon "Blondie," she was a gold-digging flapper trailed by rich suitors, one of whom was playboy Dagwood.

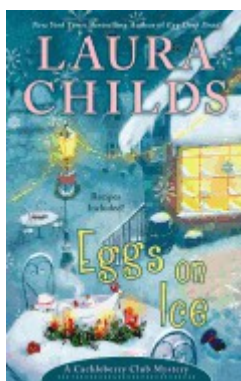
Recent and Upcoming New Releases:

Check out the prices following the title of the book. Those prices are the publisher's prices. **The Book Rack price is normally 20% lower.** When you pick it up at the store there is no shipping cost, though we can also ship it to you. Order now by calling the store or stopping in. We do ask for prepayment on all special orders.

You can also add any of these titles to your request list. Some will come in soon and others may take a while, but most will get to you eventually.

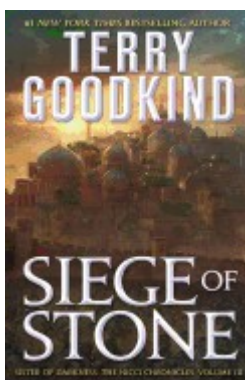
Hardcover and Trade Paperback

Laura Childs – Eggs on Ice – 26.00



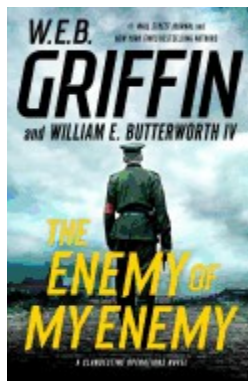
Robin Cook – Pandemic – 27.00

Terry Goodkind – Siege of Stone – 31.99



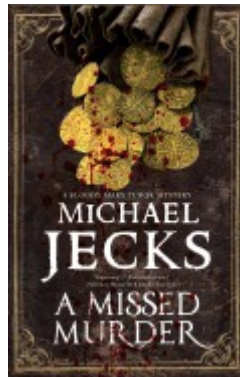
Simon R Green – Murder in the Dark – 28.99

W.E.B Griffin – The Enemy of My Enemy – 29.00



Tami Hoag – The Boy – 28.00

Michael Jecks – A Missed Murder – 28.99



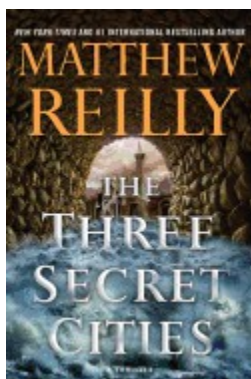
Val McDermid – Broken Ground – 26.00

Brenda Novak – Before We Were Strangers – 15.99



Ian Rankin – In a House of Lies – 27.00

Matthew Reilly – The Three Secret Cities – 26.99



Wendy Corsi Staub – Dead of Winter – 15.99

Stuart Woods – A Delicate Touch – 28.00

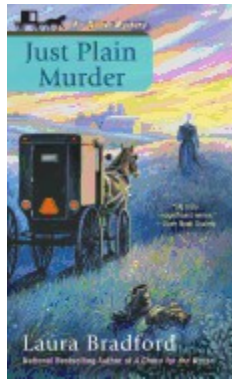


The October 2018 winner #4 is:

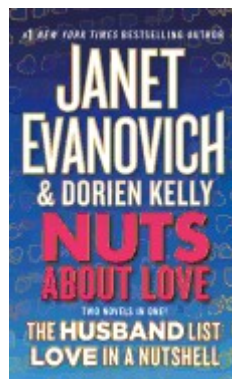
Lisa Ambrose

Mass Market Paperback

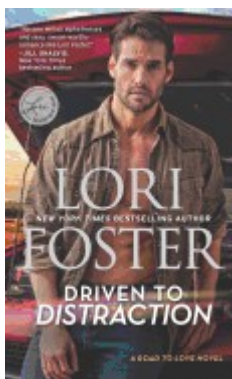
Laura Bradford – Just Plain Murder, An Amish Mystery – 7.99



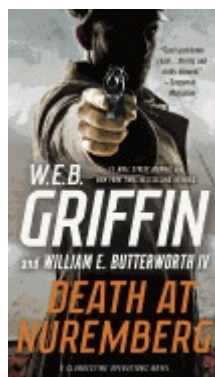
Janet Evanovich – Nuts About Love – 9.99



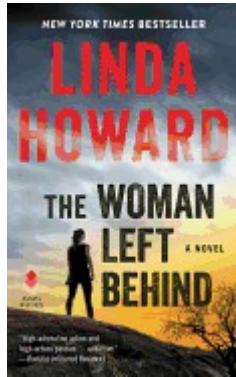
Lori Foster – Driven to Distraction – 7.99



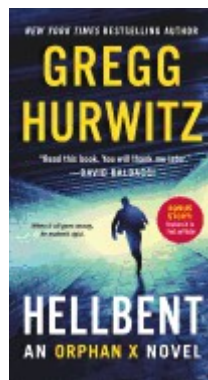
W.E.B. Griffin – Death at Nuremberg – 9.99



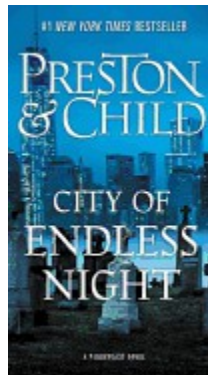
Linda Howard – The Woman Left Behind – 7.99



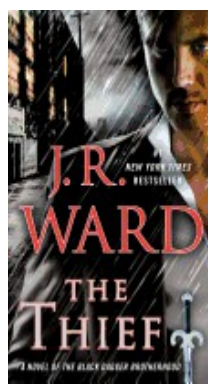
Gregg Hurwitz - - Hellbent, An Orphan X Novel – 9.99



Preston & Child – City of Endless Night – 9.99



J.R. Ward – The Thief, A



Black Dagger Novel – 7.99